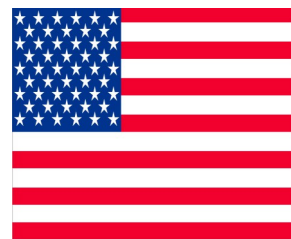




U.S. Embassy, Lusaka

CONSULAR COMMUNICATOR



Advancing Freedom in Zambia by Rob Romanowski

It has been called the “longest day” and the “day of days.” It was the largest seaborne invasion in history and one of the most complex military operations that ever took place. Despite substantial preparations, though, the success of the endeavor was never certain.

On the day before the assault a note was prepared that read,
“Our landings...have failed to gain a satisfactory foothold and I have withdrawn the troops. My decision to attack at this time and place was based on the best information available. The troops, the air and the Navy did all that bravery and devotion to duty could do. If any blame or fault attaches to the attempt it is mine alone.”

Fortunately, on June 6, 1944, Supreme Allied Commander General

Dwight D. Eisenhower never had to issue this note. At the end of a furious day of fighting, more than 150,000 Allied troops landed on the Normandy coast and successfully established a firm foothold. Within three months, Paris was liberated, and within a year the war in Europe was at an end.

As we observe the seventieth anniversary of D-Day, we are reminded of the sacrifices of our citizenry that allowed our democracy to triumph over totalitarianism. We are reminded of the often heavy price of freedom.

Decades later President John F. Kennedy pledged that the United States would “pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe, in order to assure the survival and the success of liberty.”

Today the global landscape has changed, the challenges are different, but the United States’ commitment to advancing freedom is unwavering.

In Zambia, the United States advocates for the core freedoms of free speech, press and assembly and broader freedom from want. We deliver anti-retroviral drugs that keep half a million HIV-positive people alive. We fund improvements in education, environmental sustainability, and water sanitation. And, we support vulnerable and marginalized populations against

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social and economic iniquities. Through this work, the United States and our Zambian partners help ensure a strongly....

1st Infantry Division Memorial , Omaha Beach, Normandy



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.... democratic and prosperous Zambia that promotes freedoms for its citizens.

This month, as we celebrate 238 years of American independence, it is important for us to remember that these anniversaries – June 6; July 4; December 7 - are not just commemorations of historic singularities; they are our inheritance from generations of Americans who struggled to safeguard our founding principles. As the poet Stephen Spender described, they are our cherished legacy from those, *“who in their lives fought for life..., they travelled a short while toward the sun, And left the vivid air signed with their honour.”*



Farewell to Zambia by Brian Grandjean

My two years in Zambia have finally come to a close, and I am grateful for the once in a lifetime experience of living and working in Africa and serving my country at U.S. Embassy Lusaka.

It seems like only yesterday that I arrived in Zambia as a freshly commissioned U.S. Foreign Service Officer, excited but green on my first overseas assignment as a consular officer. During my tour in Zambia, I've had the pleasure of meeting thousands of U.S. citizens from all walks of life: tourists, missionaries, teachers, students, businesspeople, farmers, aid workers, Peace Corps Volunteers, and a former U.S. president. I never get tired of meeting Americans in Zambia, because each one of you has an interesting and special story to tell.

I am especially struck by the many Americans who live and work here and call Zambia their home. Most of you are working in some way to improve the quality of life for everyone in Zambia, and I will always remember the selfless U.S. citizens I have met here who make me feel proud to be an American.

Serving U.S. citizens in Zambia has not been the only part of my job, but it has in many ways been the most rewarding. Americans seldom come to the Embassy when things are going well -- they usually come because they require a service, need help getting back home, or are in real distress. Sadly, I've experienced some tragedies here involving fellow U.S. citizens, but I've also witnessed moments of joy and even heroism. Americans are a unique and independent lot, yet they always seem ready to lend a hand. I would like to say a special thank you to all our wardens who volunteer to help keep Americans in Zambia safe.



As I start packing and getting ready to move back to the hectic pace of life in Washington, D.C., I realize how much I am going to miss the slower pace of life in Zambia, the great weather, and all the friendly people. Thanks to everyone who has made my time here a happy memory. I will miss you.

Get to Know Your U.S. Embassy:

An Interview with Jennifer Lawson, Public Affairs Officer

Serving as Deputy Public Affairs Officer at U.S. Embassy Lusaka since 2013, Jennifer Lawson works to engage and network with the full range of Zambian contacts to shape the public message and perceptions about the United States. A native of Maryland, Jennifer worked as professional modern dancer and choreographer before joining the Foreign Service in 2006. Since then, she has also served in Serbia, Guatemala, and Ecuador.



Q: Hi, Jennifer. As a Public Diplomacy officer, in what section of the U.S. Embassy do you work, and what exactly do you do here in Zambia?

A: I work in the Public Affairs Section, where I manage a range of programs that help create understanding between Americans and Zambians. One important way we do that is through academic, professional, and educational exchange programs. Those are really great opportunities for both emerging and established leaders to visit the United States on structured learning programs. I also work with alumni of those programs to encourage them to stay engaged with us once they return. In addition, I oversee a lot of outreach activities from the U.S. Mission out into real

and virtual communities – like coordinating Embassy volunteers for presentations about U.S. culture with Zambian students and running the Embassy’s social media platforms.

Q: Is your job high profile?

It is a position that takes me out into communities where I have the opportunity to meet dynamic and creative Zambians.

Q: Do you work alone, or do you have a team?

I am part of a great team of Zambian and American staff members – both within Public Affairs and in the wider Mission.

Q: What does your office do to promote good relations between the U.S. and Zambia?

We run a number of exchange programs to the United States. Some of the best known are the Fulbright and Humphrey scholarships and the International Visitor Leadership Program. There are many others too: Study of the U.S. Institutes, Teaching Excellence and Achievement, Pan-African Youth Leaders, and more. This year we launched President Obama’s Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders Initiative, sending 21

incredibly bright Zambian leaders between the ages of 25 – 35 to universities across the United States for six weeks. They will finish the trip in Washington, D.C. at a summit with President Obama. I think these programs promote good relations, as they provide opportunities for Americans and Zambians to interact and learn about one another.

Q: How are relations between the Zambia and the United States?

It is exciting to be here in Zambia for the 50th anniversary of this country’s independence. 2014 also marks 50 years of diplomatic relations between our two countries. The U.S. and Zambia have so many shared values around democracy, the importance of family, the worth of environmental conservation, and others, that an affinity and friendship are natural. We also have a lot to learn from one another.

Q: From a U.S. perspective, what do you think is the biggest news story in Zambia right now?

I know I’m following the stories about girls’ health, education, and well-being. The reports of so many girls getting pregnant and leaving

school are troubling, as are stories of child marriage. I am glad that there seems to be public outcry – people who feel that these injustices must be acknowledged and corrected. If girls and women are not educated, healthy, and empowered, there is no real way for a country to grow.

Q: What assistance does your office provide U.S. citizens who are living in or will be travelling to Zambia?

A: We enjoy helping Americans and Zambians connect to share ideas, knowledge, and cultural heritage. We are often able to find local audiences for visiting Americans who want to share their interests or expertise with Zambian groups. Sometimes U.S. college students come to Zambia for a study abroad program, and we arrange for them to meet with Zambian students who are planning to study in the United States – that's a great way to share perspectives and build bridges of understanding.

Q: How does your office help Zambians learn more about the U.S.?

In addition to running exchange programs and presentations in Lusaka, the Public Affairs Section also works to reach Zambians outside the capital city. We send speakers to our American Corners in the Copperbelt (we have one at Copperbelt University and one at Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation). Those American Corners are libraries filled with information about the United States, as well as access to online resources, poster exhibits about American themes, plus live and virtual presentations about U.S. policy, cul-

ture, or history. We have recently had programs at our American Corners focusing on jazz music, intellectual property rights, and personal branding. These programs are free and open to the public! Our office likes to go on the road too. We are sometimes able to take these programs to Kabwe, Livingstone, and other cities and towns.

Q: How does your office help Zambian students who want to study in the U.S.?

Thanks for asking! Our office enthusiastically supports Zambians interested in studying in the United States. Aside from short-term exchange programs, we have an Educational Advisor who is dedicated to helping Zambian students identify U.S. universities that are good matches for their interests. Then she takes them through the “five steps” of the application process. For more information, check out www.facebook.com/usembassyzambia.

Our Embassy Facebook page also has information on all kinds of U.S. themes and opportunities.

Q: What's been your favorite part about living in Zambia so far?

In terms of day-to-day life, my favorite part is definitely the people. I have found Zambians to be warm, open, friendly, and happy to share their culture. In terms of travel in Zambia, I love bats. So, my favorite experience so far was going to see the bat migration at Kasanka National Park!



Parting Words by Rob Romanowski, Consul

I will soon be departing Zambia for my onward assignment overseas. My family and I have enjoyed Zambia tremendously and will look back on our experience in southern Africa with great fondness. The kindness of the Zambian people, the superb climate, and the wildness of the landscape have made these three years unforgettable.

The U.S. citizens who reside here, scattered throughout the provinces and rural villages, are generous and warm-hearted, and I have been fortunate to see the great things many Americans are doing in Zambia with a shoe-string budget and a lot of humility.

The global media often discuss

often give coverage to infrastructure projects that are transforming Africa. What they sometimes miss is the less obvious but deep network of connections between Zambians and American organizations, churches, and small businesses.

These ties are difficult to quantify, but they are durable in ways that infrastructure projects are often not. American doctors provide care in urban and rural areas, American scientists study ways to protect wildlife in Zambian parks, and many private citizens simply come here for a short visit, see the need, and start an orphanage or a school.

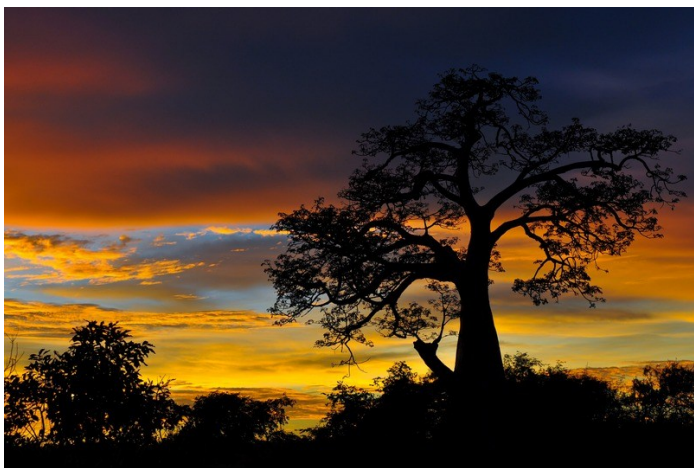
The enthusiasm behind these good works and the bonds that they foster are examples that the Zambia-U.S.



relationship is girded on a firm foundation that I expect will only continue to strengthen.

Working with U.S. citizens in Zambia has been a highlight of my experience here, especially outside of the capital. I have always been received warmly by long-term residents. I would like to thank you for your kind hospitality during these visits. You made our get-togethers in provincial Zambia often feel more like a gathering in small-town America.

It has been my great honor to serve here in Zambia, and I wish you the very best in all your future endeavors.



American Citizen Services Corner: *Changes to South African Immigration Rules*

New Regulations for Children

These rules apply to children who are entering or departing South Africa, and the required documents should be retained throughout the stay of the child in South Africa. The regulations for children will be enforced on October 1, 2014.

□ When BOTH parents are traveling with a child, parents must produce the child's *unabridged* birth certificate. The exact contents of an unabridged birth certificate vary among the different South African jurisdictions that issue birth certificates, but the key distinction between an "abridged" and "unabridged" birth certificate is that the unabridged version identifies the parents of the child.

□ When ONE parent is traveling with a child, he or she must produce an unabridged birth certificate and:

- (i) An affidavit of consent from the non-traveling parent authorizing the traveling parent to enter or depart from South Africa with the child. Note: The non-traveling parent must be registered as a parent on the child's birth certificate.
- (ii) A court order granting full parental responsibilities and rights or legal guardianship in respect of the child, if he or she is the parent or legal guardian of the child; or
- (iii) Where applicable, a death certificate of

the other parent registered as a parent of the child on the birth certificate.

□ When a person is travelling with a child who is NOT his or her biological child, he or she must produce:

- (i) A copy of the unabridged birth certificate of the child;
 - (ii) An affidavit from the parents or legal guardian of the child confirming that he or she has permission to travel with the child;
 - (iii) Copies of the identity documents or passports of the parents or legal guardian of the child; and
 - (iv) The contact details of the parents or legal guardian of the child,
- An UNACOMPANIED minor (under 18 years of age) must produce:
- (i) Proof of consent from one or both of the minor's parents or legal guardian, in the form of a letter or affidavit, for the child to travel into or depart from South Africa. In the case where only one parent provides proof of consent, that parent must also provide a copy of a court order issued to him or her stating that he or she has been granted full parental responsibilities and rights in respect of the child;
 - (ii) A letter from the person who is to receive the child in South Africa, containing his or her residential address and contact details

where the child will be residing;

(iii) A copy of the identity document or valid passport and visa or permanent residence permit of the person who is to receive the child in the South Africa; and

(iv) The contact details of the parents or legal guardian of the child.

Passport Requirements for South Africa

South African law requires that all foreign passports must be valid for at least 30 days after your intended date of departure from South Africa. The passports should also have two fully blank visa pages upon each arrival in South Africa. Blank “endorsement” pages at the end of the passport are not sufficient. “The blank pages must be “visa” pages. Travelers without the requisite blank visa pages in their passports may be refused entry into South Africa, fined, and returned to their point of origin at their own expense.

As a general precaution, all travelers should carry a photocopy of the photo/bio information page of their passport and keep it in a location separate from their passport.

Visa Requirements for South Africa

U.S. citizen visitors to South Africa for tourism, short business meetings, or in transit do not require visas for stays of up to 90 days. Under the new regulations, applications to extend tourist visas are no longer allowed unless the traveler requires emergency life-saving medical treatment for longer than three months, or is an accompanying spouse or child of a busi-

ness or work visa holder and also wishes to apply for a study or work visa.

All other travelers, including academics, students on educational trips, entrepreneurs, workers, and volunteers, need visas. Applicants for all visas must apply in person for such visas in the country where they ordinarily reside or where they hold citizenship. For example, U.S. citizen travelers who intend to work in South Africa must apply for work visas before arrival; otherwise, travelers risk being refused admission and returned to their point of origin. Applications to extend non-tourist visas must be submitted no less than 60 days prior to the expiry date of the traveler’s visa, and if the visa was issued for less than 30 days, not later than seven working days before the expiry of the visa. Such extensions may be applied for in South Africa.

In the event that travelers overstay their authorized period of stay by up to 30 days, they may be declared “undesirable” by immigration authorities and barred from entering South Africa for a period of 12 months. In the case of travelers who overstay a second time within 24 months, they may be declared undesirable for two

years. In the case of travelers who overstay for more than 30 days, they may be declared undesirable for a period of five years.

For updated information about the latest immigration requirements, travelers should visit the website for the South African Department of Home Affairs

<http://www.home-affairs.gov.za/>

and the U.S. Consulate in Johannesburg

http://southafrica.usembassy.gov/information_for_travelers.html.

Travelers are also advised to contact the nearest South African embassy or consulate before traveling.